

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 205979  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:DEZWEIFEL:DLD:TEXT FROM WHITEHOUSE  
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES  
NEA/PAB:JACOON  
S/S-O:TMARTIN

-----094246 150311Z /62

O 160214Z AUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 205979

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, PK, US

SUBJECT: CAMP DAVID SUMMIT: LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

1. YOU SHOULD SEEK EARLY APPOINTMENT TO PASS FOLLOWING  
LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PAKISTAN CMLA ZIA. THERE  
WILL BE NO SIGNED ORIGINAL OF THIS LETTER. TEXT IS SELF-  
EXPLANATORY IN DISCUSSING CAMP DAVID SUMMIT. LETTER IS  
INTENDED TO BE INFORMATIVE, RATHER THAN INVITATION TO SUB-  
STANTIVE RESPONSE; HOWEVER, GUIDANCE ON HANDLING QUESTIONS  
FROM HOST GOVERNMENT WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTEL.  
FYI: SIMILAR (IN SOME CASES IDENTICAL) LETTERS ARE  
BEING SENT TO A NUMBER OF OTHER HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR GENERAL ZIA:

I WISH TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME THOUGHTS ON THE FORTH-  
COMING MIDDLE EAST MEETING AT CAMP DAVID.

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WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND PRESI-  
DENT SADAT HAVE BOTH RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE INVITATION  
TO MEET WITH ME NEXT MONTH IN A MAJOR NEW EFFORT TO ESTAB-  
LISH A FRAMEWORK FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT. WE  
HAVE PURPOSELY NOT SET A FIXED DURATION FOR THE TALKS,  
SCHEDULED TO BEG; ON SEPTEMBER 6, SO AS TO BE ABLE TO

ALLOW AS MUCH TIME AS IS NEEDED FOR OUR EFFORTS TO SUCCEED.  
THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING INDICATION OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH  
WHICH ALL PARTIES ARE APPROACHING THIS MEETING.

I EXTENDED THIS INVITATION BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE HAVE  
REACHED A CRUCIAL POINT IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE  
MIDDLE EAST. NINE MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE PRESIDENT SADAT  
AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN OPENED SIGNIFICANT NEW POSSIBILI-  
TIES FOR NEGOTIATING WITH THE HISTORIC MEETINGS IN JERU-  
SALEM AND IN ISMALIA. THE SIDES HAVE MADE PROGRESS TOWARD  
RESOLVING SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT DIVIDE THEM AT THIS TIME,  
BUT RECENTLY, AS YOU ARE AWARE, AN IMPASSE WAS THREATENED.  
I AM CONVINCED THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD AN IMPASSE, SINCE  
THE POSITIONS WOULD THEN HARDEN AND THE ATMOSPHERE DETER-  
IORATE TO THE POINT WHERE THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE  
COULD WELL BECOME ANOTHER OF THE LOST OPPORTUNITIES THAT  
HAVE MARKED THE HISTORY OF THIS TRAGIC CONFLICT.

THE OBJECTIVE AT THE CAMP DAVID MEETING WILL REMAIN  
AS IT HAS BEEN DEFINED BY THE TWO SIDES THEMSELVES IN  
NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR: TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD AN AGREE-  
MENT ON A FRAMEWORK, BASED ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
242, THAT WOULD ALLOW STEADY PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENT ON  
SPECIFIC ISSUES, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE AGREED GOAL OF  
A STABLE, JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE. SUCH AN AGREED  
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FRAMEWORK MIGHT HELP TO BRING OTHER PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT  
INTO THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

OUR EXPERIENCE IN ATTEMPTING TO FACILITATE AND PRO-  
MOTE NEGOTIATIONS THIS PAST YEAR HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT  
IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY NEGOTIATIONS BEYOND A CERTAIN POINT  
ON THE CRUCIAL ISSUES UNLESS THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT THEM-  
SELVES CAN BE ENGAGED IN A DIRECT EXCHANGE. THIS WAS ONE  
OF THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT LED ME TO THE DECISIONS TO EX-  
TEND INVITATIONS TO THE TWO LEADERS TO MEET WITH ME AT  
CAMP DAVID. OUR OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENTS  
AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL WHICH CAN PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THE  
NEGOTIATORS ON THE KEY ISSUES. I PLAN TO DO EVERYTHING  
WITHIN MY POWER TO HELP PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER  
BEGIN ACHIEVE THE PROGRESS FOR WHICH WE ARE ALL SEARCHING.

AS WE MOVE INTO THIS CRUCIAL NEW PHASE OF MIDDLE EAST  
NEGOTIATIONS I WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU MY REASONS FOR  
TAKING THIS STEP AND THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT WE HOPE TO  
ACCOMPLISH. I KNOW YOU WILL AGREE WITH MY SENSE OF THE  
IMPORTANCE OF THESE TALKS, WHICH HOLD THE PROSPECT OF A

MAJOR STEP FORWARD, DESPITE THE REAL DIFFICULTIES. I HOPE  
THAT I CAN COUNT ON YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING AND FULL SUPPORT  
IN THE TASK ON WHICH WE ARE EMBARKING.

WITH MY BEST WISHES, SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER. END  
TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, PEACE TALKS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 16 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Subject:** CAMP DAVID SUMMIT: LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT  
**TAGS:** PPDC, PDEV, PK, US, EG, IS  
**To:** ISLAMABAD  
**Type:** TE  
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